(a) whether Railways have a plan to set-up one hundred budget hotels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to set-up such hotels at Veraval, Dwarka, Okha and important tourist cities in Gujarat; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) The proposal is in a conceptual stage.

Derailments

101. *SHRI AKHILESH DAS:* Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of derailments which affected train services in the country since May last, Zone-wise;

(b) the causes of these derailments;

(c) the amount of loss suffered by Government on account of disruption of train traffic during the above period; and

(d) the measures Government propose to take to check derailments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Railway Zone-wise break-up of derailments during the period May 1996 to January 1997 is as under:—

Central — 34, Eastern — 16, Northern — 32, North-Eastern — 5, Northeast Frontier — 11, Southern — 18, South-Central — 20, South-Eastern — 35, Western — 23, Metro — 1, Total — 195.

(b) Main causes of the derailments were human failure, equipment failure and sabotage.

(c) Cost of damage to railway property on account of the derailments was Rs. 25 crores (approx.)

(d) Some of the measures taken to improve safety and prevent derailments are as under:—

(i) Upgradation of track structure is being undertaken on a planned basis using 60 kg rails and concrete sleepers.

(ii) During the last two years, Complete Track Renewal work has been carried out covering more than 5600 kms.

(iii) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(iv) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillography cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

(v) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(vi) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

(vii) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised, including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

(viii) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

(ix) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(x) Periodical safety drivers are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Objection of Railways for Hinduja Project in Visakhaptnam

102. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have objected to the Hinduja project in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, as reported in The Asian Age, dated 9-1-1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to clear the project early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd., which proposes to set up a thermal power station near Visakhapatnam has suggested the execution of a fuel supply and transportation agreement between the coal producer, transporter and the power company. The details of the proposal are under consideration.

Allotment of Space for Telephone Booths at Railway Stations

103. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that allotment of space for STD/ISD and PCO booths at Railway stations is made only to the physically handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many such booths have been allotted to the physically handicapped persons at Nagpur Junction in Maharashtra;

(d) how many of the allottees are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(e) whether Government propose to allot more booths at the junction in the near future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) As per extant policy, the space to set up Pay Phone Booths having local/STD/ISD facilities is allotted only to physically handicapped persons who are handicapped 40% and above on certain terms and conditions.

(c) and (d) Out of 4 booths available at Nagpur Junction, 3 booths are run by physically handicapped persons and 1 by non-handicapped person to whom the space was allotted before the formulation of extent policy guidelines. Amongst the handicapped persons, 2 are from Scheduled Castes and 1 from General Category.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The present facilities are considered adequate.

Extention of Railway Crossings

104. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway level crossing at dairy farm Rayalacheruvu Gate and D.R. Mahal at Tirupati Town would be extended;

(b) if so, the width of the proposed extension; and

(c) by when will the project be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Widened to 10 metres.

(c) Work of all three level crossings has been completed in Dec. 96.

Railway Projects in Punjab

105. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rail projects being implemented by Government in the State in Punjab;

(b) the details thereof and the progress made so far; and

(c) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The details are as under:—

Name of project	Current Status	Target for completion
New lines		
1. Beas-Goindwal (27 kms.)	The work has already been completed and commissioned on 27.7.96	—
2. Nangal Dam to Talwara (Partly in Punjab) (83.74 kms.)	The rail line from Nangal Dam to Una has already been completed. Land acquisition is being taken up beyond Una. Work will be started once the land becomes available.	Not yet fixed.